

# SERMONS AND SERVICES AT THE CHURCHES.

**Suicide Discussed by Father F. N. Kiley**—The Reverend Baxter Waters on Our Relations in Life—Doctor Fullerton Warns the Church Against Overconfidence—Doctor Winchester on Christ's Presence in Life—Feast of the Holy Name Celebrated in Catholic Churches—Empty, Swept and Garnished, by Doctor Patton.

Suicide was the theme of a sermon by the Reverend F. N. Kiley at Holy Angels Church. Father Kiley alluded to the arguments made by two of his intimate acquaintances who finally took their lives. His brother, Galt, was in violation of the divine law. "They shall not kill." We have no right to deprive of their own, and our lives belong to our Maker. Injustice, he granted, esteemed judgment. Some believe that all suicides are at least temporarily insane, but it should be remembered that the severest compunction, remorselessness, despair, aggregation and passion for notoriety prevails in our day and age without effect in multiplying suicides. Father Kiley counseled patient courage and submission to the Creator's will.

At Central Christian Church the Reverend Elbert Waters delivered a sermon in which he pointed out the merit of liberating and philanthropic efforts to aid weaker men. In this we have an example, the broad love and self-sacrifice of Christ. We should regret that we forgot patriotism, so liberal that we believe nothing, so pliant though that we fail to love our friends and homes.

At Lucas Avenue Cumberland Presbyterian church, Doctor Fullerton delivered a sermon in which he laid emphasis on the necessity of church concerning itself for shortcomings and eradicating them. He pointed out that many persons suffer from superstitions upon their goodness without realizing that they have done much wrong.

Doctor Immanuel, rector of Calvary Church of the Ascension, preached on "The Presence of Christ in Life." The effects of Jesus' appearance at Cana, he said, were the blessing of those who witnessed the miracle of his disciples and the miraculous inspiration of unnamed men to write divine messages.

The feast of the H. Name of Jesus was celebrated with the Catholic Churches. At Church of the Holy Name, solemn pontifical mass, the presence of Archbishop Kain was celebrated by the Reverend Abbot Immanuel Conrad. The sermon was delivered by the Reverend P. P. Crane. He brought the name of Jesus dwelling on its power and its appropriateness to the divine character.

Empty, Swept and Garnished" was the subject of the Reverend C. H. Patton at First Congregational Church. He said that it was not enough in empty, the soul of man. Positive virtue must replace it. Even where one has virtues amounting to nobleness something is wanting if the soul has not Christ abiding in it.

The Reverend E. Duckworth, rector of St. James' Episcopal Church, preached on lessening the bonds of captivity. He remarked that we frequently ask God to do things that we must do for ourselves. And in cases of failure we do not realize that it is because we become disengaged and give up. We must reuse ourselves and pay for our strength.

Doctor P. J. Johnson preached at Third Baptist Church on "Defective Righteousness." He contrasted the righteousness taught by Christ—meek, meek, loving, sympathetic, earnest and pure—with that of the ancient Stoics and Pharisees—vainglorious, selfish and bitter.

Doctor Palmer at Lafayette Park Presbyterian Church preached on "A Message to the Lost." He dwelt upon the imitation of boys and girls in the city. In addition to the winsomeness and their work he emphasized: "I sometimes think that only shotgun and dynamite will ever work any change."

## SOCIAL VICE AND CONTROL.

BY DOCTOR W. W. BOYD.

At Second Baptist Church last evening the Reverend Doctor W. W. Boyd continued his discussion of social subjects. His theme was "Social Vice and Its Control."

"We are to study to-night a most delicate and difficult problem in sociology. It must be considered before a refined audience with great caution, but in no spirit of prudery. Fastidiousness is surely out of place in our society—so am I. But the society has introduced the subject."

"To such grievances as society cannot readily cure, it usually builds altars on pillars of its own, thus becoming only a sort of tinted cloak to its defective weaknesses, helping thus greatly to dull social forces."

The greater the responsibility, the greater is my conscience and responsibility as a teacher reader command it."

"Not, however, with out careful, painstaking study of this greatest social problem did I venture opinions. For weeks I have perused statistics gathered in this and other countries, read many books and addressed published on this subject, examined myself in the history of prostitution from the earliest times until now, and come to the most reasonable conclusion that I deem myself ready to state conclusions with confidence. In the case of a single fact it is of course impossible to give the facts from every angle, but in general vice, but of social economies. This means an entire change of social attitude towards the poverty, a manner of life, and personal possessions, and the conditions, circumstances, and every grade of social life; says the foundation of the home threatens every man, woman and child in her immediate circle of public taxation and private outcry, and leaves in its desolating train ruined hopes, shattered and dismally hopeless families, and the third and fourth generations of the guilty and innocent alike."

Many thorough students are coming to the conclusion that this evil, in the various forms, is in the United States greater even than that of its twin vice, intemperance. Dr. Watson, the author of the former, believes that it is a more constant and fundamental cause of degeneration than intemperance, it can be seen in the growth of a more or less pronounced vice in a much larger number of persons. An eminent physician, say, in his profession, may be led to commit a crime, but it is not to be expected that the entire community will be greatly diminished in crime in our city.

"Firstly, it would call forth the most virtuous efforts of the people to save the city to these unfortunate women. Once gathered into a community of its own, they are apt to commit acts of violence and degradation of the evil, and the fathers and mothers of the slaves frequenting the streets made of each class. When a crime was committed, the character of every home and race of business within that district would be ruined, and it would continue to exist except of honor and honor in the community. To the parents of families little tenement houses, where none of the comforts and joys of the decencies of life may be had, is a recruiting of the forces of prostitution."

In studying its causes, I am more and more impressed by two things. First, that the small sins of young women, when they are common, bring about a condition of society which causes them to live in a life of shame, poverty, seduction, debauchery, treatment by police, institution of law, and punishment by society. The second majority are driven to this life by necessity, by the stern necessity to live. This is especially true of those who occupy rooms in their relatives' houses.

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